

CLAIMS

What is Claimed is:

1. A frame comprising:

5 an outer frame member of T-shaped section having an extension extending inwardly; and

an inner frame member having a flat portion abutting against the extension of the outer frame member,

wherein the outer frame member and the inner frame member are friction stir
10 welded together with the edge of the extension of the outer frame member abutted against the edge of the flat portion of the inner frame member.

2. The frame of claim 1, wherein the inner frame member is formed of two or more frame members friction stir welded together with one abutted against another.

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3. A method for fabricating a frame, comprising the steps of:

preparing an outer frame member of T-shaped section having an extension extending inwardly;

20 preparing an inner frame member having a flat portion abutting against the extension of the outer frame member; and

friction stir welding the outer frame member and the inner frame member with the edge of the extension of the outer frame member abutted against the edge of the flat portion of the inner frame member.

25 **4.** The method for fabricating a frame of claim 3, wherein the step of preparing an inner frame member comprises the step of friction stir welding two or more frame members with one abutted against another.

5. The method for fabricating a frame of claim 3, further comprising, after friction stir welding the outer frame member and the inner frame member, the step of subjecting the outer and inner frame members together to surface treatment or finish coating.

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6. The method for fabricating a frame of claim 4, further comprising, after friction stir welding the outer frame member and the inner frame member, the step of subjecting the outer and inner frame members together to surface treatment or finish coating.